

Word equations are used to show chemical reactions.

You start with ...

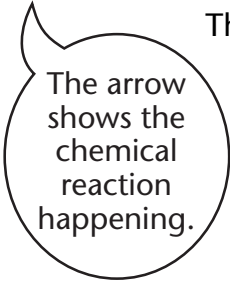
You end up with ...

methane + oxygen → carbon dioxide + water

The substances you start with are put on the left.

A plus sign is put between the substances.

These substances are called **reactants**.



The arrow shows the chemical reaction happening.

The substances you end up with are put on the right.

Again, a plus sign is put between the substances.

These substances are called **products**.

Some common reactions

- Burning magnesium:
magnesium + oxygen → magnesium oxide
- Photosynthesis:
carbon dioxide + water → glucose + oxygen
- Respiration:
glucose + oxygen → carbon dioxide + water
- Neutralising acid:
hydrochloric acid + sodium hydroxide → sodium chloride + water
- Displacing copper:
copper sulphate + zinc → zinc sulphate + copper